

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-15 are pending in this action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC ' 103

Claims 1-3, 5, 6 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carlson (U.S. 4,523,230) in view of Jang (U.S. 5,361,094), and further in view of Mihara (EP 0457497).

Applicant's claim 1 recites, "a method for reducing sparkle artifacts in a liquid crystal imager, comprising the steps of gamma correcting a video drive signal; and slew rate limiting at least a portion of said gamma corrected video drive signal."

Applicant's claim 6 recites, "An apparatus for reducing sparkle artifacts in a liquid crystal imager, comprising a device for gamma correcting a video drive signal for providing a gamma corrected video drive signal, and a slew rate limiter coupled to said device for gamma correcting so as to receive said gamma corrected drive signal, for slew rate limiting said gamma corrected video drive signal."

Regarding independent claims 1 and 6, the office action acknowledges neither Carlson nor Jang teach slew rate limiting. The office action states Mihara teaches how to slew rate limit signals in varying rates and then displaying the signals (*see* Abstract; *see also* column 4, lines 23-27).

Applicant respectfully disagrees for the following reasons:

1. Mihara fails to teach or suggest slew rate limiting a signal (Claim 1). Mihara fails to suggest or teach a slew rate limiter (Claim 6).

Mihara describes displaying a waveform differently [displaying darkly, or displaying lightly], based on slew rate of the signal to be represented by the waveform. "Displaying darkly" is NOT slew rate limiting a signal. "Displaying lightly" is NOT slew rate limiting a signal. In this case, the term "slew rate" merely refers to an attribute of the signal whose waveform is to be displayed. Mihara lacks any teaching to limit, or to change in any way, the slew rate of the signal. In other words, Mihara fails to teach or suggest that the slew rate of the waveform to

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PU010055

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be displayed would be changed by the operation of brightening or darkening portions of the displayed waveform. On the contrary, it would be important for a waveform displaying device, such as an oscilloscope, to faithfully represent the slew rate of the signal being measured. Thus, changing, or limiting, the slew rate of the signal would be undesirable. Thus, Mihara not only fails to teach or suggest slew rate limiting a signal, the application of Mihara teaches away from "slew rate limiting a signal".

The cited column 4 lines 23 - 27 recites:

"By the method as described in the above example the part [of the waveform of the measured analog signal], where the slew rate of the waveform [of the measured analog signal] is high, is displayed darkly [on the waveform displaying device] and the part, where the slew rate is low, is displayed brightly [on the waveform displaying device]."

The cited abstract recites:

"A waveform displaying device, in which a measured analogue signal is converted into a digital signal by means of an analogue to digital converter and thereafter the digital signal is directly inputted in a display device (19) such as a raster scanning display, a liquid crystal display device, effecting the display while controlling the brightness of pixels so as to reproduce to display waveform of the measured analogue signal. In the present device the brightness of pixels is varied, depending on slew rate of the waveform, so that the brightness of interpolation lines is increased, when differences between inputted waveform data are small, and the brightness is decreased, when the differences are small."

Increasing brightness of interpolation lines is not a teaching of slew rate limiting a signal. Therefore, It can be readily appreciated by a close reading of the above cited portions of the Mihara specification that no teaching of slew rate limiting a signal, or of a slew rate limiter, is provided.

Having fully addressed the Examiner's rejections it is believed that, in view of the preceding amendments and remarks, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly then, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be

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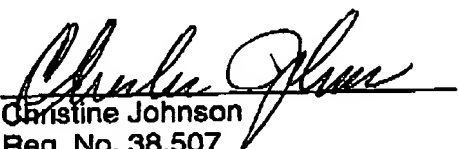
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taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's attorney at (609) 734-6892, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

All fees due should be charged to Deposit Account 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,

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December 7, 2004